

SECTION I. (AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS)

A listing of claims 1-4 of the present application, which are amended herein with markings to show changes made, is provided below:

1. (Currently amended) A DRAM cell array which comprises:

a plurality of memory cells which are arranged in rows and columns, each memory cell including a deep trench region having a vertical MOSFET and an underlying capacitor formed therein that are in electrical contact to each other through at least one buried-strap out diffusion region which is present within a portion of a wall of each deep trench;

each memory cell having a deep trench conductor forming an electrode of said underlying capacitor and a collar oxide region formed in a portion of the deep trench;

the collar oxide region formed on a remaining wall portion of each deep trench not containing said buried-strap out diffusion region for electrically isolating a body region from said underlying capacitor;

a trench top oxide (TTO) layer located inside the deep trench without extending upwardly along vertical walls of the deep trench ~~formed on a horizontal surface of the DRAM cell array~~ for isolating the deep trench conductor ~~forming an electrode of said underlying capacitor~~ and said buried-strap out diffusion region from a gate conductor region;

an underlying nitride layer formed immediately adjacent to and contacting a top of a sacrificial oxide layer formed immediately adjacent to and contacting a top of said deep trench conductor between the top of said deep trench conductor and said buried-strap out diffusion region and underlying said TTO layer to eliminate a possibility of TTO layer dielectric breakdown between said gate conductor region and said electrode of said underlying capacitor.

2. (Original) The DRAM cell array of Claim 1, wherein said nitride layer is deposited to a thickness ranging from 1.0 nm – 10.0 nm.

3. (Previously amended) The DRAM cell array of Claim 1, wherein each said vertical MOSFET includes gate dielectrics formed on inner surfaces of sidewalls of each said deep trench.

4. (Original) The DRAM cell array of claim 1, wherein the underlying nitride layer is formed only under and on the side of the TTO layer.